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### DANC 191.01: Special Topics - Hip Hop

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## **Special Topics: Hip Hop DANC 191-08**

**Thurs 1:40-3:30pm**

**2 Credits**

**Downtown Dance Collective 121 W. Main st.**

**Advisor: Heather Adams**

**Instructor: Heidi Michaelson**

**Spring 2014 Syllabus**

### **Course Description**

In this course you will learn the fundamentals of Hip Hop Dance. You will use the skills learned in class to perform combinations given during class. Some combinations will be complex to challenge your brain and others simple to practice basic skills and improve your physical condition. There will rarely be homework given, but you are expected to attend every class, dance hard, show that you are giving effort, and exhibit improvement over the semester. Below I have listed some of the goals that I wish for you to achieve with this class.

- Learn and execute fundamental hip hop dance steps
- Learn basic dance terminology from ballet, jazz, salsa commonly used in hip hop choreography
- Condition, strengthen and stretch the all essential parts of the body needed for dance movement
- Learn and understand the history of hip hop dance and recognize moves adapted from other dance forms
- Develop musicality and rhythm, mental, physical coordination, and individual expression
- Become comfortable interpreting music for freestyle performances

### **Requirements**

Every class you will work on:

- Strength and flexibility
- Isolations
- Freestyle
- Learning choreography
- Counting rhythms
- Expression and artistry
- Gaining confidence in moving your body
- Developing your acting skills through dance – dancing through a character to match the story in the music

### **Tardiness**

Class begins promptly at 1:40pm. Do not be late. We will warm up for class together at that time. If you are more than 10 minutes late twice it will be counted as an absence and need to be made up. See instructor for make-up options.

### **Requirements for Performances**

General course requirements state that you must see four dance productions during this semester. Bring a ticket stub or program to class to prove that you attended the performance. If there is a conflict in your personal or school life that prevents you from seeing a performance, alternatives may be decided upon but only if I know about the conflict in advance. See the dance technique class requirements page for a list of shows you are required to see.

### **Final Project**

All students will be required to participate in a final project. Final Project this semester is to choreograph a 2 minute solo piece to music of your choice. Pieces will be presented Thursday May 15th in class. This is the last class of the semester. You will work on the piece throughout the semester with guidance from your instructor to be sure that it includes both original moves and material learned in class.

### **Dress Code**

Half tops or sports bras as your only top are not allowed . Wear clothing that allows you comfort to move. Sneakers are highly recommended, but barefoot is also acceptable. No street shoes (sneakers must be clean and indoor-only). Do not wear large jewelry, ie: big earrings, loose bracelets, or necklaces.

### **Teacher Contact Info**

You may contact me (Heidi Michaelson) by email at [hdm7890@yahoo.com](mailto:hdm7890@yahoo.com) or call/text me at (802)377-5202 for questions or to report an absence.

### **School of Theater and Dance Handbook**

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html>.

### **Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code**

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/theatredance/about/handbook>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class do so at their own risk. If you do have an injury or there is any reason you believe you cannot fully participate in class, please let Heidi Michaelson know about the issue immediately. Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>

### **What to Expect in Class:**

20 min. warm-up/ conditioning  
30 min. fundamentals  
10 min. video/ history  
40 min. choreography  
10 min. freestyle

# DANCE TECHNIQUE CLASS REQUIREMENTS

## *Spring Semester 2014*

- I. NO STREET SHOES, FOOD, OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE DANCE STUDIOS
- II. All students enrolled in classes who are not Theatre/Dance majors are highly encouraged to sign up as C/NC. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, in order to receive Expressive Arts credit, a student must enroll for a traditional grade and the grade received must be a C or higher. May 9 is the last day to change to C/NC, *and may be done after February 17 by petition only.*
- III. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT THE FOLLOWING:
  - A. **ACDFA Benefit Concert** February 7-8 (Fri-Sat) 7:30pm, Open Space, \$5. Tickets at the door
  - B. **Dance in Concert**, March 19-22 (Wed-Sat) 7:30pm, Montana Theatre; general admission \$20, \$16 senior/student, \$7 required students
  - C. **Dance New Works**, May 6-10 (Tues-Sat) 7:30pm, and May 10 (Sat) at 2:00pm, Open Space; \$9 general admission, \$6 required students

**Your instructor MAY choose to offer students a chance to use attendance at the following as make ups for absences at the instructor's discretion:**

- a) *Springboard 2014*; January 24, 25, 31, and February 1 at 7:00pm; 2:00pm on Feb 1  
The Elk's Stage 112 (112 N. Pattee St, Missoula, MT). Tickets \$13 in advance and \$15 day of show, available at the Downtown Dance Collective, at [www.ddcmontana.com](http://www.ddcmontana.com), or 406.214.0097. For more information about the show: [www.barebaitdance.org](http://www.barebaitdance.org)
- b) *The Legend of Orpheus*; February 14, 7:30pm; February 15 at 2:00pm & 7:30pm; February 16 at 2:00pm.  
Missoula Children's Theatre, Tickets available at MCT box office: 728-7529 (PLAY).
- c) *Wall City News*; April 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7:00pm, and 2:00pm on April 26  
The Elk's Stage 112 (Elk's Lodge: 112 N. Pattee St, Missoula, MT); Tickets: \$13 in advance and \$15 day of show, available at the Downtown Dance Collective, at [www.ddcmontana.com](http://www.ddcmontana.com), or by calling 406.214.0097. For more information about this show: [www.barebaitdance.org](http://www.barebaitdance.org)

**Tickets for performances in the PARTV Center are on sale in the Box Office in the PARTV Center, unless otherwise noted.**

**Your instructor will require a written critique, quiz, or something else of their own choosing.** You will need to give specific examples, so take notes either during or after the concerts. As you watch, it will be helpful to think about the following:

1. Which pieces you felt strongly about (i.e., either really liked, disliked, were puzzled by, etc.)
2. On the choreography of each piece;
  - a. What is the theme or movement idea?
  - b. What is the style of dance and how does it work with the theme?
  - c. What is it about the movement or the way the piece progressed that made you react as you did?

3. Your reaction to the performances of the dancers: expression and technique.
4. Your opinion on the theatrical elements: costumes, lighting, sets and sound score. Did they work with the choreography?

**Provide specific examples to back up your opinions!**

## **ATTENDANCE AND GRADE POLICY–DANCE TECHNIQUE**

**Attendance** is important in any field, but vital in the field of dance. Learning to dance requires that your body do it. You won't gain in flexibility, and strength, or in your ability to pick up movement or generate your own movement by hearing about what happened from a classmate, or reading a book. In other words, there is no way to make up the material you miss.

So, WE EXPECT YOU TO BE IN EVERY CLASS. However, knowing that unpredictable circumstances can arise, we are giving you two absences. You may also make up two classes. You can do this by watching, and writing a one-page observation of another dance class that is either a more advanced level of the style you're studying or a different style, or by participating in another section of the same level and style of class that you're taking.

**AFTER YOU HAVE USED YOUR TWO ABSENCES AND TWO MAKEUPS, YOU WILL BE DOCKED ONE-THIRD OF A GRADE FOR EVERY ABSENCE FOLLOWING.**

**GRADING:** Dance is different from many other fields in that a student's work is not as quantifiable as it is in some other subjects, such as history or math. For this reason we do not have a point breakdown, but rather general guidelines.

To receive an "A" you must:  
show signs of aptitude for dance technique, and musicality  
have an energetic, attentive attitude  
progress over the semester  
be at the top level of the class  
and, of course, fulfill the attendance, critique and exam requirements

You will receive an "F" if your absences and lack of critiques add up (or subtract) to an "F."

Your grade will be lowered by one-third of a point for each critique you do not hand in (e.g., if you start with a B, your grade will drop to a B-, then C+ and you will receive a "C+").

You may receive an "incomplete" (I) only if you have exceptional circumstances, *which you have discussed with the instructor.*

NOTE: **LOCKER RENTALS** ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS IN THE DANCE CLASSES. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO NOT LEAVE PERSONAL BELONGINGS UNATTENDED IN THE DRESSING ROOMS, HALLWAYS, OR DANCE STUDIOS, AS **THEFTS FREQUENTLY OCCUR**. LOCKERS MAY BE RENTED FOR \$7.00/SEMESTER, OR \$13/TWO SEMESTERS. (see Dance Program administrative assistant—door across from women's dressing room and then up the stairs.)